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ABSTRACT

After 10 years of development, the California Statewide Automated Child Support System, run by the Department of Social Services (DSS), has been scrapped and the state has begun developing a new child support collection computer. This report evaluates the performance of publicly-funded child support collection programs in California, examining the history of the state collection program and describing the leadership needed for an effective child support system. Also provided are data to assess the current capacity of the state collection program. The report concludes that although there has been much improvement in child support collection, California still ranks among the worst-performing states in child support performance. Further, the report maintains that although DSS has statutory authority over the program, the department has never received enough support from the governor to effectively manage it. The report focuses on gross errors in the measurement of child support collections as a percentage of total support owed and the measurement of whether families are able to leave welfare and receive child support. The report concludes with recommendations for strong commitments by the California Governor, Attorney General, Legislature, DSS, every state district attorney, and the Judiciary to reform the child support program and build accountability into the system. A data supplement document presents tables enabling county comparisons within California and state comparisons with the rest of the United States with regard to child support enforcement. (KB)

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California's Child Support Program

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

California's Child Support Program:

The Cost of Failure

This report evaluates the performance of publicly-funded child support collection programs in the state. It is jointly published by the National Center for Youth Law, the Child Support Reform Initiative and Children Now, based on the most current, confirmed data available.

The Child Support Project of the National Center for Youth Law seeks to improve child support enforcement in California through advocacy and education. The National Center for Youth Law advocates nationally on behalf of children affected by poverty.

Children Now is a nonpartisan, independent voice for children. With particular concern for those who are poor or at risk, Children Now is committed to improving conditions for all children.

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The National Center for Youth Law,
The Child Support Reform Initiative
and Children Now

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Introduction

California's troubled child support collection program is at a crossroads. After ten years of development, the Statewide Automated Child Support System (SACSS) has been scrapped and the state has begun the process of developing a new child support collection computer. There are important lessons to be learned from the SACSS experience—lessons that can save the state millions of dollars and help children get the support owed to them. **California's Child Support Program: The Cost of Failure** looks at the history of the state collection program and describes the leadership needed for an effective child support system. This report also provides data to assess the current capacity of the state collection program.

While there has been some modest improvement in child support collection, many severe problems persist. California still ranks among the worst-performing states in child support performance, collecting support for just 17% of the families that depend on the state program. Today, over $8.2 billion is owed to California children. With many families facing time-limited welfare, improved child support collection is more important than ever before. The next Governor of California will need to take immediate and decisive action to meet federally mandated requirements to improve the child support program. As this report makes clear, the lack of executive leadership and program accountability has cost taxpayers and families far too much. California has some of the toughest child support laws on the books, world-renowned computer expertise and high per capita income. There is simply no excuse for our continued failure to collect adequate support for children.

Who Runs the Collection Program?

Federal law requires every state to have a single agency operate its child support program. In California that state agency is the Department of Social Services (DSS). However, DSS contracts out the day-to-day operations of the collection program to the 58 county district attorneys. Many other state agencies are also involved in various aspects of child support collection, including: the Attorney General's office, Franchise Tax Board, Employment Development Department, Department of Motor Vehicles and Health and Welfare Data Center. Successful child support collection requires the effective coordination and integration of these agencies, along with the 58 county programs.

So who runs the state child support program? According to the federal government, it is DSS, since federal law requires that there be one state agency in charge of the program. Yet the Attorney General has stated that he is the "only official with any degree of authority over California's district attorneys."[1] The locally elected district attorneys, however, have operated their county programs with a great deal of autonomy. While DSS has statutory authority over the child support system, it has never received enough support from the Governor to effectively manage it. As a result, no clear authority exists. The management problems caused by this lack of leadership and accountability have cost California taxpayers and families billions of dollars.

Ten Years of Costly Mismanagement

President signs the Family Support Act of 1988 which requires states to complete child support automation projects by September 30, 1995. The federal government agrees to pay 90% of automation costs.

Projected cost of California child support computer is $99,183,361.

Projected cost increased to $164,937,800.

California Department of Social Services (DSS) finally awards the Statewide Automated Child Support System (SACSS) contract to Lockheed Martin Information Management Systems (Lockheed).

SACSS quality assurance vendor reports serious concerns with the general system design.

Quality assurance vendor reports that Lockheed has failed to take any corrective action on reported problems with general system design.

Projected cost of SACSS at $173,538,468.

Lockheed acknowledges design flaws.

After Department of Motor Vehicles automation fiasco, Governor creates Office of Technology to prevent future failure of automation projects in California.

Quality assurance vendor reports significant problems with system testing and recommends not proceeding to next stage of project; responsibility for project is transferred from DSS to Health & Welfare Data Center.

Quality assurance vendor reports that SACSS fails user acceptance testing; first California county —Sierra—is piloted on SACSS.

Federal government extends deadline for completion of statewide automated systems to September 30, 1997; projected cost of SACSS grows to $260,497,475.

With SACSS installed in seven counties, the Health and Welfare Data Center suspends further installation because of significant problems.

More counties attempt to use SACSS.

Projected cost of SACSS jumps to $298,509,542.

State Department of Information Technology is created; projected cost of SACSS increases to $312,600,000.

Oversight vendor finds over 1,400 defects in SACSS system.

California terminates SACSS contract with Lockheed.

California State Auditor issues report finding that SACSS failed due to a "cascade of events."[2]

State submits a planning document seeking federal funding for an interim child support system design, projected to cost $267 million.

President Clinton signs the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998, reducing the penalty for missing state child support automation deadlines.

Source: California State Auditor, Health and Welfare Agency: Lockheed Martin Information Management Systems Failed to Deliver and the State Poorly Managed the Statewide Automated Child Support System (March, 1998); California Assembly Committee on Information Technology, The $260 Million Dollar Question: Will the State Automated Child Support System (SACSS) Ever Really Work? An Addendum (November, 1997); California Legislative Analyst's Office.

Blocking the Path to Improved Collection

Policymakers need to understand why SACSS failed if California is to reform its troubled child support collection program. The difficulties in developing a functional statewide computer are tied to the poor management of California's fragmented system.

Ten years ago the federal government required all states to begin developing statewide automated child support systems. California took four years to award the contact to Lockheed Martin Information Management Systems ("Lockheed"). Almost immediately, major problems in the system were uncovered. Still, the state proceeded with the project. This basic pattern continued for years: major flaws were discovered but not resolved, and the project proceeded with Lockheed's assurance that the system would one day work properly. County implementation began despite problems so severe that the state's quality assurance vendor recommended against moving forward.

By 1997, the projected cost of the system had soared to well over $300 million, with $111 million of taxpayer dollars already expended. The system was installed in 23 of California's counties, but barely functioning. Counties, such as San Francisco, began to leave the system. In November 1997, the state finally made the decision to terminate the contract with Lockheed. Lockheed and the state are now embroiled in very costly litigation over the failed project.

Ultimately, nearly every entity involved with the SACSS project shares responsibility for its demise. The federal government was slow to provide states with system requirements. Lockheed developed a flawed system and failed to adequately test it. The state accepted the flawed system, insisted that it be implemented in counties and never adequately resolved its significant problems. County district attorneys, by demanding that the system be customized to meet their needs rather than adapting their operations to a statewide system, made SACSS far more complex than necessary. While state officials should have controlled the various demands of individual district attorneys, they did not. Lockheed largely attributes the failure of SACSS to the vastly different technical requirements of the 58 counties.[3]

After years of delay, California is subject to several critical deadlines to complete the automation process. The state is already well behind schedule. California is now subject to federal penalties for failure to develop a functional, statewide computer, increasing each year from $12 million in 1998, to $143 million in 2002 and thereafter.[4] Given the collapse of SACSS and the possibility of incurring substantial penalties, California should now be taking stock of its entire child support program. The state must review the county-based collection structure and demand more uniform procedures in order for statewide automation to succeed. California could be taking lessons from more successful states, like Massachusetts and Washington, that run more efficient state-based collection programs.

Unfortunately, district attorneys in California are resisting a single, statewide computer and the state is acceding to their demands. The state now plans to operate four regional systems. Not only do these systems require substantial upgrading, linking them together has a high risk of failure. Given California's poor record of managing automation projects, choosing untested technology is risky. Furthermore, while the federal government may waive the single system requirement and allow some states to link together multiple systems, there is no guarantee that California will receive such a waiver.

As California begins another child support automation system already projected to cost hundreds of millions of dollars, the state can learn much from its past mistakes. However, according to the most recent report of the California State Auditor, the state is again heading down the wrong path. Disturbed by the process by which California considered systems to replace SACSS, the Auditor stated, "The key point is that all alternatives should be thoroughly explored and eliminated from consideration for programmatic, financial, and technical reasons only. The decisions should not be based on the arbitrary preferences, biases, and political considerations of various stakeholders."[5]

It is time for the Governor and the Attorney General to spearhead sweeping reform of California's fragmented collection system. Politics should not control policy and system administrators must be held accountable for their decisions.

Tracking Child Support Performance
Closing Cases or Helping Children?

Accurate information is the key to sound management. Unfortunately, child support data has never been completely reliable, due largely to the reporting practices of the county district attorneys and insufficient oversight by DSS.[5] New data collection problems have also developed as a result of the failure of SACSS. While officials continually claim to be making tremendous gains in child support collection, a closer look at the numbers tells another story.

For the last several years some county child support agencies have focused considerable effort on closing cases and eliminating families from their child support records. The Little Hoover Commission found that some district attorneys have manipulated caseload data in order to appear to be making more progress collecting support than is actually the case.[7] The net effect of this practice is that county collection performance looks better, but fewer children are served. This past year alone, California closed the cases of almost 750,000 families, representing well over a million children.[8] Nearly half of these children are receiving welfare benefits and are now subject to strict time limits, making receipt of child support more important than ever before. Closing these children's cases may well guarantee that they never receive the child support to which they are legally entitled. While some of these cases legitimately should have been closed,[9] many were closed simply to make program performance appear better.

Child Support Performance in California and the Nation
Key Collection Performance Measures

The most recent data[18] on child support performance indicates that California improved slightly on some performance measurements and lost ground on other key measurements. Much of the "gain" is simply the result of closing families out of the system. Overall, the state's child support program remains near the bottom of the nation, failing far more children than it helps. The following charts illustrate California's child support performance compared to the nation.

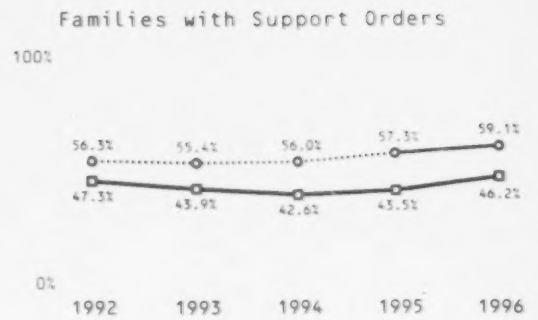
Obtaining a child support order is the first critical step to collecting support. Without a support order, no child support accrues for children. Today, over half the families in California's child support program—representing nearly two million children—lack support orders. California ranks in the bottom fifth, among the lowest in the nation. States with superior child support programs, such as Washington State and Massachusetts, have support orders for well over 75% of their cases.

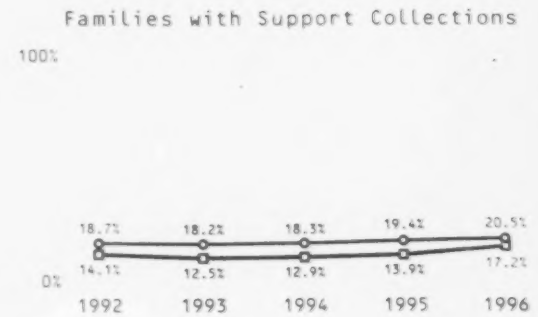
Of all families who look to the state for assistance in collecting support, California now collects some support for just 17% of them. This represents an improvement over the prior year, but the modest improvement is based, in part, on deleting the cases of over one million children from the system. Today, five out of six families who need assistance—representing over three million children—still get no help from the state; and this figure is worse than the rate in 1990. While no state does a great job of collecting support, nine states, including Massachusetts, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Washington, collect support for more than 30% of their families.

The amount of support collected for each family in the system has also improved somewhat this year. Collections are now nearly $420 per year for each family who depends on the state child support agency, which is less than $24 a month for each child who looks to the state system for assistance. This is more than 30% below the national average and well below the averages of some of the best states which collect over $1,000 annually for each family. Given that California has the 14th highest per capita income in the nation, the state should not rank near the bottom in child support collection.

While collections have increased slightly, the amount of unpaid support—support the state child support program has failed to collect—has increased at a much faster rate. Five years ago, the amount of uncollected support in California's child support program was less than $3 billion. Today, that amount has soared to over $8.2 billion, representing an almost three-fold increase.

Related to the increase in unpaid support, the amount of child support California collects as a percentage of what is owed has fallen dramatically in the last five years. Today, California collects only 10% of the support owed.





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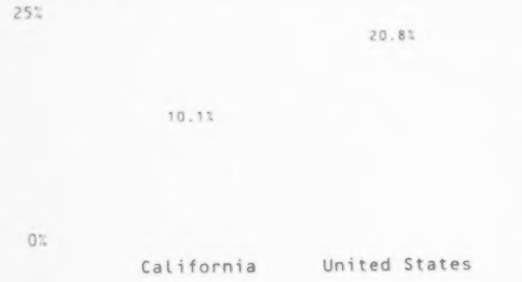
This is more than 40% below the state's performance just five years ago and less than half the national rate. Of all states in the nation, only Indiana has a poorer record.

While California's child support program performs poorly for families, the profit the state realizes from its operation has increased in the last few years. In fact, state coffers have benefited substantially from the child support program. This is because state child support programs are funded by a combination of federal grants and welfare recoupment. In 1992, the state "profit" from the child support program was under $100 million. Today it is nearly $140 million, an increase of over 40% and three times larger than the next largest "profit" state. This profit has not been put to work for children.

Finally, in light of welfare reform and time-limited welfare benefits, a critical measurement is whether families are able to leave welfare with child support collections. The United States General Accounting Office (GAO) recently studied whether states are likely to be successful obtaining child support for families reaching their welfare time limits. Unfortunately, the GAO found that welfare families will not be able to rely on child support as a steady source of income, particularly in states with under-performing child support programs.[11] Federal statistics support the GAO's conclusion: nationally only 7% of single-parent, welfare families are able to leave aid and obtain support; and in California, only 3% can.[12] If child support performance does not improve dramatically over the next several years, almost every single-parent family reaching the end of welfare will not have received assistance from either the noncustodial parent or the state child support system.

California Uncollected Support

1996 Percentage of Support Collected



1996 Families Leaving Welfare with Child Support Collections

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County Child Support Collection Data

Understanding the child support performance of the 58 counties requires analysis of key child support data that district attorneys are required to report to DSS.[13] Unfortunately, despite the clear requirement to report accurate data, the information is often less than completely reliable. A federal audit discovered "significant errors" in the data reported by California and its counties.[14] It is important to note that almost every error discovered by the federal auditors resulted in an overstatement of California's child support performance. Therefore, the data analyzed for this report in all likelihood also overstate the performance of the state and the counties.

The failure of SACSS caused additional data problems this year. For the 23 counties that operated on the SACSS system, there is very little available information. It is possible, however, to develop an understanding of some important aspects of county child support performance through selected data elements. In some cases, the data from the 23 SACSS counties are sufficiently reliable to use; in other cases, data from the previous year were analyzed for the SACSS counties.

Uncollected Support

The measurement of child support collections as a percentage of total support owed helps to illustrate just how much child support the state fails to collect. However, the figure does not include the 1.3 million families in the system who are waiting for a court order for child support. Therefore, this measurement understates the child support that should be owed by at least half. The support owed in this measurement includes total, accumulated support owed, not just support owed this year, and the ten percent interest that is charged on past due support.

Unfortunately, some of the county data are clearly wrong, and the state has not taken steps to correct them. For example, both Mariposa and Del Norte Counties report collecting more support than is actually owed. Mariposa reports over 400% more in collections than what is owed. Such obvious data errors raise serious questions about the accountability of the entire child support program and the Department of Social Services' role in oversight.

On the other end of the spectrum, eight counties collect less than ten percent of the support owed. The poor ranking includes both large counties like Los Angeles (collecting only 5.9% of support owed and ranking 58th of the 58 counties) and smaller counties like Butte (collecting only 7.6% of support owed and ranking 56th of the counties).

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Large Counties

COUNTY	TOTAL UNCOLLECTED	PERCENT COLLECTED	RANK
San Mateo	$63,732,456	23.6%	12
San Bernardino	$222,064,233	21.7%	13
Alameda	$345,581,695	16.3%	25
Sacramento	$287,113,974	16.3%	27
San Diego	$420,625,106	16.0%	29
San Joaquin	$188,627,512	14.5%	34
Orange	$503,870,293	14.5%	36
Ventura	$170,967,789	14.1%	38
Contra Costa	$238,893,289	11.9%	45
Kern	$319,518,645	10.8%	49
Fresno	$456,023,694	10.7%	50
Santa Clara	$468,146,070	9.7%	51
Riverside	$492,774,130	9.5%	52
San Francisco	$156,226,862	8.2%	55
Los Angeles	$1,799,939,693	5.9%	58

Medium Counties

COUNTY	TOTAL UNCOLLECTED	PERCENT COLLECTED	RANK
Placer	$39,727,093	32.6%	10
Marin	$18,335,444	29.7%	11
San Luis Obispo	$50,685,143	21.6%	15
Merced	$65,668,240	21.4%	16
Stanislaus	$125,409,422	20.1%	19
Humboldt	$39,467,711	18.8%	20
Monterey	$82,169,860	18.7%	21
Madera	$31,390,060	17.5%	22
Santa Barbara	$96,493,760	16.5%	23
Santa Cruz	$51,530,825	16.5%	24
Solano	$84,547,399	16.3%	26
Napa	$35,495,750	15.3%	30
Tulare	$126,832,506	14.6%	32
Yolo	$49,549,908	14.6%	33
Sonoma	$114,673,787	14.2%	37
Shasta	$81,024,809	14.0%	40
Kings	$47,889,817	12.2%	44
El Dorado	$77,329,243	8.8%	53
Butte	$82,134,290	7.6%	56
Imperial	$57,003,956	6.8%	57

Small Counties

COUNTY	TOTAL UNCOLLECTED	PERCENT COLLECTED	RANK
Mariposa	($18,537,598)	446.9%	1
Del Norte	($1,044,257)	105.2%	2
Lake	$564,882	98.4%	3
Plumas	$2,592,623	68.5%	4
Sierra	$301,729	67.5%	5
Mendocino	$10,818,143	56.5%	6
Siskiyou	$12,795,717	56.3%	7
Inyo	$4,246,048	54.6%	8
Trinity	$4,387,218	34.4%	9
Mono	$1,704,509	21.6%	14
Sutter	$18,347,810	21.3%	17
Colusa	$3,631,225	21.0%	18
Amador	$10,472,905	16.2%	28
Tuolumne	$17,530,991	15.1%	31
Glenn	$9,601,388	14.5%	35
Lassen	$8,721,042	14.1%	39
Modoc	$2,443,590	13.6%	41
Calaveras	$14,145,606	13.3%	42
Tehama	$26,155,096	13.0%	43
Yuba	$26,980,736	11.7%	46
Nevada	$33,816,712	11.7%	47
San Benito	$18,411,206	10.8%	48
Alpine	$1,344,610	8.4%	54

Source: Endnote 15

From Welfare to Support

In light of welfare reform and time-limited welfare benefits, a critical measurement of county performance is whether families are able to leave welfare and receive child support. Low-income, single-parent families will need child support payments to become self-sufficient. The federal government requires states to report the number of families who leave welfare and receive child support collections.

Again, some of the data are highly suspect. Siskiyou County reported that more families left welfare with child support collections than had actually received welfare during the entire year. This is clearly incorrect.

Additionally, 13 other counties, including Fresno, Los Angeles and San Bernardino, reported that not a single family left welfare with child support collections. This is highly unlikely. It seems more likely that these counties simply chose not to report the data, despite clear federal and state reporting requirements. It is particularly disconcerting that Los Angeles did not report this information. Los Angeles has the only child support computer in the state that complies with federal requirements and should be able to easily report these data. The county's refusal to provide the information should not be acceptable to state officials.

*Data for the 23 SACSS counties are from 1995-96, data for all other counties are from 1996-97.

Source: Endnote 16

Families Leaving Welfare with Child Support Payments

Large Counties

COUNTY	PERCENT WITH CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS	RANK
Santa Clara	30.0%	5
Contra Costa	16.0%	10
Riverside	12.0%	13
San Francisco*	7.2%	21
San Diego	4.5%	26
Orange	3.4%	31
San Mateo	2.2%	35
Sacramento	1.9%	36
San Joaquin	1.5%	39
Ventura*	1.2%	42
Alameda	0.8%	43
Fresno	0.0%	last
Kern	0.0%	last
Los Angeles	0.0%	last
San Bernardino	0.0%	last

Medium Counties

COUNTY	PERCENT WITH CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS	RANK
Santa Barbara	58.1%	3
El Dorado	23.2%	7
Shasta*	19.5%	8
San Luis Obispo*	16.3%	9
Yolo	10.4%	15
Tulare	9.7%	17
Solano	7.6%	19
Imperial	7.5%	20
Napa*	6.4%	23
Sonoma	6.1%	24
Santa Cruz	4.2%	27
Madera	3.8%	28
Butte	3.5%	30
Placer*	2.7%	34
Marin	1.2%	41
Humboldt	0.5%	44
Kings	0.0%	last
Merced	0.0%	last
Monterey	0.0%	last
Stanislaus	0.0%	last

Small Counties

COUNTY	PERCENT WITH CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS	RANK
Siskiyou*	126.5%	1
Plumas*	65.9%	2
Sutter	31.2%	4
Colusa*	25.4%	6
Trinity*	15.6%	11
Glenn*	12.9%	12
Del Norte*	11.2%	14
Mariposa*	9.8%	16
Alpine*	8.3%	18
Lassen*	6.7%	22
Tuolumne	5.2%	25
Lake*	3.6%	29
Yuba	3.4%	32
San Benito*	2.8%	33
Calaveras	1.6%	37
Nevada	1.6%	38
Inyo*	1.4%	40
Mendocino*	0.1%	45
Amador*	0.0%	last
Modoc*	0.0%	last
Mono*	0.0%	last
Sierra*	0.0%	last
Tehama	0.0%	last

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Closing Families Out of the Collection System

As discussed above, some counties have concentrated their efforts on closing families out of the system rather than collecting support for them. Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento and San Bernardino counties have closed over 650,000 children out of the child support program last year alone. Most notable, Sacramento's 50% closure rate means that the county child support program is as likely to close a family out of the system as it is try to collect support for them. On the other hand, failing to close *any* cases may mean that county officials are so overwhelmed that they are unable to identify cases that legitimately should be closed.

Families Closed Out of Child Support System

Large Counties

COUNTY	PERCENT CASES CLOSED	RANK
Ventura*	12.3%	10
San Diego	13.2%	12
San Mateo	13.6%	13
Orange	14.6%	17
San Francisco*	16.6%	25
Fresno	17.0%	27
Alameda	17.7%	29
Santa Clara	19.5%	38
Contra Costa	20.6%	39
San Joaquin	24.8%	45
Riverside	24.8%	46
San Bernardino	25.8%	49
Los Angeles	33.0%	54
Kern	40.1%	56
Sacramento	50.1%	58

Medium Counties

COUNTY	PERCENT CASES CLOSED	RANK
Butte	10.9%	6
Napa*	14.2%	14
Monterey	14.3%	15
Stanislaus	14.3%	16
Santa Barbara	14.6%	18
Tulare	15.0%	19
Placer*	15.5%	20
Madera	16.1%	23
Merced	17.0%	26
Yolo	18.3%	31
Imperial	18.7%	33
Humboldt	18.7%	34
Solano	18.7%	35
El Dorado	18.7%	36
Marin	19.2%	37
Kings	20.9%	40
Sonoma	21.2%	41
San Luis Obispo*	28.3%	52
Shasta*	29.9%	53
Santa Cruz	44.4%	57

Small Counties

COUNTY	PERCENT CASES CLOSED	RANK
San Benito*	5.7%	1
Alpine*	9.0%	2
Yuba	9.4%	3
Mono*	9.6%	4
Nevada	10.4%	5
Mariposa*	11.0%	7
Siskiyou*	11.3%	8
Colusa*	12.2%	9
Modoc*	13.2%	11
Inyo*	15.7%	21
Glenn*	15.9%	22
Del Norte*	16.4%	24
Plumas*	17.0%	28
Amador*	17.9%	30
Calaveras	18.5%	32
Tuolumne	22.7%	42
Tehama	23.6%	43
Mendocino*	24.8%	44
Trinity*	24.9%	47
Sutter	25.4%	48
Lassen*	26.5%	50
Lake*	27.5%	51
Sierra*	33.7%	55

*Data for the 23 SACSS counties are from 1995-96, data for all other counties are from 1996-97.

Source: Endnote 17

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Who Really Gets Money from the Child Support System?

One of the most important measurements of the child support program's success is its ability to increase support collections for each family in its caseload. In order to assist county child support programs, the federal and state governments have paid them incentives based on their child support collections. The assumption is that the more support collected, the more incentive payments that a county would receive, which would in turn further encourage increased collections for children. Benefits to those who operate the county child support systems would be closely tied to benefits for children. If the child support system worked properly and children were put first, the incentive plan would be a valid and valuable management tool. Unfortunately, in California this has not been the case.

For all but three counties, incentive payments to the counties have increased at least twice as fast as child support collections. At the far end of the spectrum is Alpine County, with a 360% *increase* in incentives, but an 11% *decrease* in collections. Los Angeles County also had its incentives increased at nearly 14 times the rate of its child support collections. In these

This chart compares the growth of child support incentive funding to the growth of child support collections over the past three years. For example, Orange County bureaucratic incentives increased at twice the rate of its child support collections.

** While Alpine County's child support incentives payments increased by 360% over three years, its child support collections actually *decreased* by 11% over the same period.

Source: Endnote 18

Large Counties

COUNTY	RATIO OF INCENTIVES TO COLLECTIONS CHANGE	RANK
San Bernardino	1.9	3
Orange	2.0	4
San Mateo	2.3	7
Santa Clara	2.4	8
Sacramento	2.7	14
Kern	3.1	25
San Joaquin	3.2	28
Contra Costa	3.2	29
Alameda	3.3	32
Ventura	3.5	35
Fresno	3.9	40
Riverside	4.1	42
San Diego	4.6	44
San Francisco	6.1	49
Los Angeles	13.6	57

Medium Counties

COUNTY	RATIO OF INCENTIVES TO COLLECTIONS CHANGE	RANK
Imperial	2.0	5
Humboldt	2.5	9
Santa Cruz	2.5	10
Sonoma	2.5	11
Placer	2.6	12
Butte	2.6	13
Madera	2.8	16
Tulare	2.9	17
Solano	2.9	18
San Luis Obispo	3.0	20
Napa	3.1	24
Marin	3.2	27
Stanislaus	3.2	30
El Dorado	3.5	34
Merced	3.7	36
Shasta	3.8	38
Kings	3.9	39
Santa Barbara	6.3	50
Monterey	6.4	51
Yolo	9.7	56

Small Counties

COUNTY	RATIO OF INCENTIVES TO COLLECTIONS CHANGE	RANK
Mono	1.6	1
Modoc	1.7	2
Nevada	2.1	6
Lassen	2.8	15
Sutter	3.0	19
Inyo	3.0	21
Del Norte	3.0	22
Plumas	3.1	23
Mariposa	3.1	26
Calaveras	3.3	31
Lake	3.3	33
Trinity	3.7	37
Amador	4.0	41
Yuba	4.5	43
Tehama	5.3	45
Mendocino	5.6	46
Colusa	5.8	47
Sierra	6.0	48
Tuolumne	6.7	52
San Benito	7.4	53
Siskiyou	8.3	54
Glenn	9.3	55
Alpine	**	58

counties it is clear that the major beneficiaries of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars have been county coffers, not children.

The clear result is that incentives have not been properly tied to increased child support payments. Children should be the primary beneficiaries of the child support program. In order to build some accountability into the child support program, child support advocates sponsored legislation this year (SB 1410 (Burton), Chapter 404 of the Statutes of 1998), that will better tie incentives to outcomes for children.

Recommendations for Reform

The failure of the state child support computer has made it difficult to accurately judge state and county child support performance this year. Still, it is clear California ranks near the bottom of the nation. Problems collecting support reflect a fundamental lack of control and accountability in the collection system. Given the $140 million profit the child support program generates for California, the state has the resources needed to operate an exceptional program. Although politically difficult, the state must begin the process of centralizing the child support program through a single, statewide computer system. County child support agencies should not be able to hinder reform of the entire state collection program.

The next Governor, State Attorney General and other policymakers need to show strong leadership on child support collection. They must reform the county-based program to prevent another computer failure from denying California children the support they are owed. Specific reforms include:

A commitment by the next Governor to make child support a top priority by empowering the state child support agency, the Department of Social Services, to effectively manage the program and the county child support agencies who operate it; overseeing development of exemplary child support automation; adequately funding the program, with funding attached both to true accountability and to real improvements for children; and studying major reorganization of the program to maximize support for children.

A commitment by the next Attorney General to work in partnership with the child support program, particularly to help improve or to take over the programs of under-performing counties.

A commitment by the California Legislature to create a superior child support program by providing adequate funding for the program and requiring accountability from the state and local child support agencies.

A commitment by DSS to effectively manage the district attorney county child support programs, demanding accountability, compliance with requirements, and the best performance for families; and a commitment to take control, in collaboration with the Attorney General, of chronically under-performing counties.

A commitment by every district attorney to operate the best child support program possible, by putting the needs of children and their families first; aggressively working—and not inappropriately closing—difficult cases; working toward statewide automation and a unified state child support agency; and providing a true complaint resolution for all families.

A commitment by the Judiciary to devote sufficient resources to the state child support program for judges, commissioners and family law facilitators to assist unrepresented parents.

Endnotes

[1] Letter from Attorney General Dan Lungren and Statewide Support Coordinator Carol Ann White to Assembly Member Dion Aroner (August 17, 1998).

[2] California State Auditor, *Health and Welfare Agency: Lockheed Martin Information Management Systems Failed to Deliver and the State Poorly Managed the Statewide Automated Child Support System* S-2 (March, 1998).

[3] *See* Virginia Ellis, *Snarled Child Support Computer Project Dies,* Los Angeles Times, November 21, 1997, at A1, A28.

[4] The federal penalty is 4% of federal child support funding in 1998, 8% in 1999, 16% in 2000, 25% in 2001 and 30% in 2002 and thereafter. Penalty estimates calculated using 1997 federal expenditures on California's child support program, increased yearly by the average cost increase for the prior six years (12.3% per year).

[5] California State Auditor, *Analysis of the Health and Welfare Data Center's Plan for Child Support Enforcement Automation* 11 (May, 1998).

[6] *See* U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Audit Report No. CA-94-RSR* (July 31, 1996) (hereafter "*1996 Federal Audit*").

[7] *See* Little Hoover Commission, *Enforcing Child Support: Parental Duty, Public Priority* 48 (May, 1997).

[8] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, *Child Support Enforcement: Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress* (1998) (hereafter, "*Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress*").

[9] Federal regulations provide some limit on when cases may be closed, but, in deference to state child support agencies, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services has proposed regulations to make it much easier to close cases. 45 Code of Federal Regulations 303.11; 63 Fed. Reg. 9172 (Feb. 24, 1998).

[10] All federal data from the *Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress*; calculations by National Center for Youth Law. As this report goes to press, the federal government has just released preliminary 1997 federal data. Until finalized, these draft data are subject to change. They do, however, show that California is continuing to close families out of the child support system at an exceedingly high rate and that the program is continuing to make modest gains in some key indicators.

[11] U.S. General Accounting Office, *Welfare Reform: Child Support an Uncertain Income Supplement for Families Leaving Welfare*, GAO/HEHS 98-168 (August, 1998).

[12] Welfare family group data from House Committee on Ways & Means, *1998 Green Book, 105th Cong., 2d Sess.* (1998); Department of Social Services, *AFDC-FG Statewide Cash Grant Caseload Movement and Expenditure Report* (1992-1996).

[13] In order to better evaluate the counties' child support performance, the counties are divided into large, medium and small county groupings. There are 15 large counties, each with population over 500,000; 20 medium-sized counties with population of 100,000 to 500, 000; and 23 small counties with population under 100,000.

[14] *1996 Federal Audit* at 3. Legislation sponsored by children's advocates (SB 936 (Burton), Chapter 926 of the Statutes of 1997) requires that counties report accurate and consistent data beginning July, 1998. However, until the state completes child support automation—not scheduled to occur until 2001—counties can choose to get waivers from reporting accurate data.

[15] Department of Social Services (DSS), *Monthly Accounts Receivable Reports* (federal fiscal year 1997); DSS, *Child Support Intercept System, IRS Annual Submittal Statistics, Total Arrears Submitted by County* (1997); Office of Child Support Enforcement, *Form OCSE 158* (federal fiscal year 1997); calculations and rankings by National Center for Youth Law. *Note:* Beginning in March, 1998, we requested these data from the DSS. DSS claimed that data on child support arrears do not exist by county and refused to provide the information. In fact, this information does exist: DSS compiles and reports it to the federal government every year. However, because DSS failed to provide the data as required by law, we had to use calendar year county data for submittal to the Internal Revenue Service,which we adjusted based on federal fiscal year arrears data for the state as a whole.

[16] Department of Social Services (DSS), *AFDC-FG Statewide Cash Grant Caseload Movement and Expenditure Report* (1995-1997); DSS, *Child Support Management Information System, Annual Report* (1995–96, 1996–97); calculations and rankings by National Center for Youth Law.

[17] Department of Social Services, *Child Support Management Information System, Annual Report* (1995-96, 1996-97); calculations and rankings by National Center for Youth Law.

[18] Department of Social Services, *Child Support Management Information System, Annual Report* (1994-95, 1995–96, 1996–97); calculations and rankings by National Center for Youth Law.

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California's Child Support Program:

The Cost of Failure

Data Supplement

NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW,
CHILD SUPPORT PROJECT

CHILD SUPPORT REFORM INITIATIVE

CHILDREN NOW

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CALIFORNIA'S CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM: THE COST OF FAILURE

DATA SUPPLEMENT

By federal mandate, California operates a program to collect child support, run by a single state agency — the State Department of Social Services (DSS). DSS, however, contracts the day-to-day operations of the program to the 58 county district attorneys who run their own, independent collection programs. This Data Supplement explains the child support statistical analysis in ***California's Child Support Program: The Cost of Failure*** and presents aggregate child support performance data for the nation as a whole and for the 58 county district attorney child support programs.

The federal data come from a report prepared by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Support Enforcement, *Child Support Enforcement: Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress ("Twenty First Annual Report To Congress")* (1998), compiled from data submitted quarterly and annually by the states. Calculations and state rankings are by the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL).

The county data used to prepare this report come from information the 58 district attorneys submit monthly to DSS. DSS publishes the data every year in *Child Support Management Information System, Annual Report*. Data for this report come from the 1994/95 Annual Report, the 1995/96 Annual Report and the 1996/97 Annual Report. Calculations and county rankings are by NCYL.

Twenty-three of California's counties spent part of 1996-97 operating on the Statewide Automated Child Support System (SACSS), which had major systemic flaws and is no longer in use. As a result, some of the data reported by the SACSS counties for 1996-97 are unreliable and have not been used in this report.

Child support data between states may not always be reported uniformly and thus, state by state comparisons are not always completely accurate. However, comparisons of states' performance over time and among counties should be valid. Additionally, these state and county data are the only information available for determining child support performance by state and local agencies.

NATIONAL MEASUREMENTS

- ***Families with Support Orders.*** The total number of cases in each state's child support program that have child support court orders in place were compared with the total number of cases. Since each case usually includes a mother, father and children in common, we have called this measurement families with support orders, as opposed to cases with support orders. There are some situations when a family may have more than one case. The data come from Tables 32 and 33 of the *Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress*.

- ***Families with Support Collections.*** We compared the number of cases in each state in which support was collected during the year to the state's total caseload. A case is counted as having a collection if *any* amount of support is collected — whether $1 or the entire child support amount. The spreadsheet also includes a comparison of cases with collections and cases with support orders in place. The data come from Tables 32, 33 and 34 of the *Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress*.

- ***Collections per Family.*** We compared each state's total support collections for the year with its total caseload, including both cases with and without support orders. The spreadsheet found in the Data Supplement, *1996 United States Child Support — Collections per Family*, lists the yearly collections per case for the total caseload, as well as for the subset of cases that have support orders in place. The data come from Tables 4, 32 and 33 of the *Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress*.

- ***Uncollected Support.*** We compared each state's total support owed for the year, both current support and arrears, with its total collections for the year. Support owed includes interest on past-due support. The result includes both the percentage of support collected as compared to support owed and the total support remaining uncollected. The data come from Tables 68-71 of the *Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress*.

- ***State Savings Due to Child Support Program.*** This statistic is calculated by subtracting each state's share of child support expenditures from the state's share of welfare recoupment (welfare debt collected through the child support program and kept by the state) and federal incentive payments. The spreadsheet in this Data Supplement sets out state saving for each of the last five years. The data come from Table 21 of the *Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress*.

- ***Families Leaving Welfare with Child Support Collections.*** We compared the number of families who left welfare during the year *and* who received a child support collection in the month they left welfare with the number of families who received welfare during the year. For the comparison between California and the nation as a whole, we used single-parent family group data reported by the welfare agencies. For the spreadsheet in the Data Supplement which compares the states, we used welfare data reported by child

support agencies. These data slightly overstate welfare families, since they also include children in Foster Care. However, Foster Care cases represent less than 5% of the total caseload. *See* DSS, *Child Support Enforcement Program: A Survey on the Social and Economic Characteristics of Families Receiving Child Support Enforcement Services During the Study Month of June 1996* (1997).

The data for the California/United States comparison come from Table 51 of the *Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress*; House Committee on Ways & Means, *1998 Green Book, 105th Cong. 2d Sess.* Table 7-6 (1998); DSS, *AFDC-Family Group Statewide Cash Grant Caseload Movement and Expenditures Report* (1998). The data for the national spreadsheet come from Tables 32 and 51 of the *Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress*.

STATE MEASUREMENTS

- ***Uncollected Support.*** We compared each county's total support owed for the year, both current support and arrears, with its total collections. Support owed includes interest on past-due support. The result includes both the percentage of support collected as compared to support owed and the total support remaining uncollected. The data come from DSS, *Monthly Accounts Receivable Reports* (federal fiscal year 1997); DSS, *Child Support Intercept System, IRS Annual Submittal Statistics, Total Arrears Submitted by County* (1997); Office of Child Support Enforcement, *Form OCSE 158* (federal fiscal year 1997).

  Beginning in March, 1998, we requested these data from DSS. DSS claimed that data on child support arrears do not exist by county even though DSS compiles and reports them to the federal government every year. Therefore, we had to use calendar year county data submitted to the Internal Revenue Service, which we adjusted based on federal fiscal year arrears data for the state as a whole.

- ***Families Leaving Welfare with Child Support Collections.*** For each county, we compared the number of families who during the year were able to leave welfare *and* who received a child support collection in the month they left welfare with the average number of families who received welfare each month. For each county's welfare caseload, we used single-parent household data from the welfare agencies. These data are considered more reliable than the welfare caseload data reported by the county child support agencies. The data come from DSS, *Child Support Management Information System, Annual Report (1995-96, 1996-97);* DSS, *AFDC-Family Group Statewide Cash Grant Caseload Movement and Expenditures Report* (1995-96, 1996-97).

  Data from the 23 counties operating on SACSS were so unreliable that DSS did not report them. Therefore, for those counties, 1995-96 data were analyzed. Data for all other counties are from 1996-97.

- ***Families Closed out of Child Support Program.*** The total number of cases in each county's child support program that were closed during the year were compared with the total number of cases. Since each case usually includes a mother, father and children in common, we have called this measurement families closed out of the child support system, as opposed to cases closed out of the child support system. The data come from DSS, *Child Support Management Information System, Annual Report (1995-96, 1996-97).*

  Data from the 23 counties operating on SACSS were so unreliable that DSS did not report them. Therefore, for those counties, 1995-96 data were analyzed. Data for all other counties are from 1996-97.

- ***Bureaucratic Incentives vs. Child Support Collections.*** This analysis compares the growth in each county's child support incentive payments received from the state and federal governments for the past three years with its growth in child support collections. The data come from DSS, *Child Support Management Information System, Annual Report* (1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97).

1996 United States Child Support -- Families with Support Orders

State	Cases	Cases with Orders	Percent Cases with Orders	Rank
Alabama	387,817	219,827	56.7%	32
Alaska	55,854	43,358	77.6%	9
Arizona	272,058	87,084	32.0%	52
Arkansas	137,633	95,812	69.6%	19
California	2,469,826	1,140,522	46.2%	46
Colorado	199,471	133,722	67.0%	23
Connecticut	235,547	145,778	61.9%	28
Delaware	56,159	41,054	73.1%	14
District of Columbia	100,384	41,270	41.1%	50
Florida	1,016,299	1,016,299	100.0%	1
Georgia	519,240	288,665	55.6%	36
Guam	8,999	6,196	68.9%	21
Hawaii	58,610	29,819	50.9%	39
Idaho	73,791	56,684	76.8%	11
Illinois	730,397	220,718	30.2%	53
Indiana	610,026	382,141	62.6%	24
Iowa	195,321	152,214	77.9%	8
Kansas	138,343	81,284	58.8%	31
Kentucky	322,036	180,479	56.0%	35
Louisiana	339,721	129,848	38.2%	51
Maine	77,228	61,913	80.2%	6
Maryland	379,687	271,807	71.6%	16
Massachusetts	208,435	162,592	78.0%	7
Michigan	1,561,364	737,772	47.3%	42
Minnesota	239,443	185,696	77.6%	10
Mississippi	271,119	122,855	45.3%	49
Missouri	393,250	286,511	72.9%	15
Montana	43,143	26,913	62.4%	25
Nebraska	131,541	73,093	55.6%	37
Nevada	80,474	48,692	60.5%	29
New Hampshire	46,953	35,374	75.3%	12
New Jersey	526,701	368,733	70.0%	18
New Mexico	77,134	16,807	21.8%	54
New York	1,298,272	775,367	59.7%	30
North Carolina	463,252	227,961	49.2%	41
North Dakota	43,856	30,469	69.5%	20
Ohio	952,741	645,734	67.8%	22
Oklahoma	118,331	66,676	56.3%	34
Oregon	272,009	145,065	53.3%	38
Pennsylvania	885,131	647,700	73.2%	13
Puerto Rico	183,227	113,506	61.9%	27
Rhode Island	69,182	39,010	56.4%	33
South Carolina	220,475	100,035	45.4%	48
South Dakota	31,831	29,222	91.8%	2
Tennessee	495,124	225,833	45.6%	47
Texas	833,181	386,457	46.4%	45
Utah	114,244	81,554	71.4%	17
Vermont	19,366	16,357	84.5%	4
Virgin Islands	10,578	4,979	47.1%	43
Virginia	386,669	239,909	62.0%	26
Washington	374,935	322,124	85.9%	3
West Virginia	110,966	51,804	46.7%	44
Wisconsin	409,307	341,752	83.5%	5
Wyoming	62,010	30,638	49.4%	40
NATIONAL AVERAGE	19,318,691	11,413,684	59.1%	

1996 United States Child Support -- Families with Support Collections

State	Cases	Cases with Orders	Cases with Collections	Percent Cases with Orders & Collections	Rank	Percent Cases with Collections	Rank
Alabama	387,817	219,827	82,469	37.5%	26	21.3%	28
Alaska	55,854	43,358	9,965	23.0%	52	17.8%	37
Arizona	272,058	87,084	37,770	43.4%	12	13.9%	51
Arkansas	137,633	95,812	38,287	40.0%	17	27.8%	12
California	2,469,826	1,140,522	425,061	37.3%	27	17.2%	39
Colorado	199,471	133,722	33,385	25.0%	50	16.7%	40
Connecticut	235,547	145,778	41,506	28.5%	46	17.6%	38
Delaware	56,159	41,054	15,917	38.8%	22	28.3%	11
District of Columbia	100,384	41,270	9,888	24.0%	51	9.9%	54
Florida	1,016,299	1,016,299	159,257	15.7%	54	15.7%	45
Georgia	519,240	288,665	104,510	36.2%	30	20.1%	33
Guam	8,999	6,196	2,202	35.5%	32	24.5%	19
Hawaii	58,610	29,819	13,821	46.3%	8	23.6%	21
Idaho	73,791	56,684	18,350	32.4%	36	24.9%	17
Illinois	730,397	220,718	85,899	38.9%	21	11.8%	53
Indiana	610,026	382,141	77,014	20.2%	53	12.6%	52
Iowa	195,321	152,214	39,440	25.9%	49	20.2%	32
Kansas	138,343	81,284	47,116	58.0%	3	34.1%	5
Kentucky	322,036	180,479	52,602	29.1%	43	16.3%	41
Louisiana	339,721	129,848	54,747	42.2%	15	16.1%	43
Maine	77,228	61,913	28,639	46.3%	9	37.1%	3
Maryland	379,687	271,807	86,110	31.7%	39	22.7%	25
Massachusetts	208,435	162,592	63,307	38.9%	20	30.4%	9
Michigan	1,561,364	737,772	250,767	34.0%	35	16.1%	44
Minnesota	239,443	185,696	98,667	53.1%	4	41.2%	2
Mississippi	271,119	122,855	39,221	31.9%	38	14.5%	48
Missouri	393,250	286,511	82,950	29.0%	44	21.1%	29
Montana	43,143	26,913	10,670	39.6%	18	24.7%	18
Nebraska	131,541	73,093	27,688	37.9%	23	21.0%	30
Nevada	80,474	48,692	18,424	37.8%	24	22.9%	23
New Hampshire	46,953	35,374	17,280	48.8%	7	36.8%	4
New Jersey	526,701	368,733	139,188	37.7%	25	26.4%	16
New Mexico	77,134	16,807	16,888	100.5%	1	21.9%	27
New York	1,298,272	775,367	211,993	27.3%	47	16.3%	42
North Carolina	463,252	227,961	104,834	46.0%	10	22.6%	26
North Dakota	43,856	30,469	10,458	34.3%	34	23.8%	20
Ohio	952,741	645,734	271,528	42.0%	16	28.5%	10
Oklahoma	118,331	66,676	23,085	34.6%	33	19.5%	36
Oregon	272,009	145,065	53,424	36.8%	29	19.6%	35
Pennsylvania	885,131	647,700	289,152	44.6%	11	32.7%	8
Puerto Rico	183,227	113,506	48,697	42.9%	14	26.6%	15
Rhode Island	69,182	39,010	10,219	26.2%	48	14.8%	47
South Carolina	220,475	100,035	59,163	59.1%	2	26.8%	14
South Dakota	31,831	29,222	10,517	36.0%	31	33.0%	7
Tennessee	495,124	225,833	70,480	31.2%	41	14.2%	49
Texas	833,181	386,457	167,583	43.4%	13	20.1%	34
Utah	114,244	81,554	23,964	29.4%	42	21.0%	31
Vermont	19,366	16,357	8,070	49.3%	5	41.7%	1
Virgin Islands	10,578	4,979	1,575	31.6%	40	14.9%	46
Virginia	386,669	239,909	88,911	37.1%	28	23.0%	22
Washington	374,935	322,124	126,217	39.2%	19	33.7%	6
West Virginia	110,966	51,804	25,353	48.9%	6	22.8%	24
Wisconsin	409,307	341,752	110,504	32.3%	37	27.0%	13
Wyoming	62,010	30,638	8,760	28.6%	45	14.1%	50
NATIONAL AVERAGE	19,318,691	11,413,684	3,953,492	34.6%		20.5%	

1996 United States Child Support -- Collections Per Family

State	Cases	Collections	Cases with Orders	Collections/Case With Orders	Rank	Collections Per Case	Rank
Alabama	387,817	$157,887,352	219,827	$718	49	$407	46
Alaska	55,854	$57,708,433	43,358	$1,331	12	$1,033	7
Arizona	272,058	$113,480,816	87,084	$1,303	15	$417	45
Arkansas	137,633	$79,432,115	95,812	$829	44	$577	33
California	2,469,826	$1,034,409,497	1,140,522	$907	40	$419	44
Colorado	199,471	$108,259,298	133,722	$810	46	$543	35
Connecticut	235,547	$125,234,393	145,778	$859	43	$532	38
Delaware	56,159	$35,394,565	41,054	$862	42	$630	29
District of Columbia	100,384	$27,791,253	41,270	$673	52	$277	54
Florida	1,016,299	$411,799,338	1,016,299	$405	54	$405	47
Georgia	519,240	$268,598,844	288,665	$930	38	$517	39
Guam	8,999	$6,735,959	6,196	$1,087	29	$749	18
Hawaii	58,610	$52,181,666	29,819	$1,750	2	$890	11
Idaho	73,791	$44,002,878	56,684	$776	48	$596	32
Illinois	730,397	$249,833,907	220,718	$1,132	23	$342	50
Indiana	610,026	$196,934,750	382,141	$515	53	$323	51
Iowa	195,321	$151,907,365	152,214	$998	33	$778	14
Kansas	138,343	$107,578,660	81,284	$1,323	13	$778	15
Kentucky	322,036	$144,901,347	180,479	$803	47	$450	42
Louisiana	339,721	$143,644,070	129,848	$1,106	25	$423	43
Maine	77,228	$62,584,791	61,913	$1,011	32	$810	13
Maryland	379,687	$287,923,031	271,807	$1,059	31	$758	17
Massachusetts	208,435	$247,947,706	162,592	$1,525	6	$1,190	3
Michigan	1,561,364	$949,136,462	737,772	$1,286	17	$608	31
Minnesota	239,443	$318,772,591	185,696	$1,717	3	$1,331	1
Mississippi	271,119	$84,550,818	122,855	$688	51	$312	53
Missouri	393,250	$279,224,537	286,511	$975	34	$710	20
Montana	43,143	$29,356,214	26,913	$1,091	28	$680	23
Nebraska	131,541	$95,372,725	73,093	$1,305	14	$725	19
Nevada	80,474	$56,619,584	48,692	$1,163	21	$704	21
New Hampshire	46,953	$48,242,206	35,374	$1,364	10	$1,027	9
New Jersey	526,701	$500,157,136	368,733	$1,356	11	$950	10
New Mexico	77,134	$30,113,556	16,807	$1,792	1	$390	49
New York	1,298,272	$701,884,763	775,367	$905	41	$541	36
North Carolina	463,252	$261,672,261	227,961	$1,148	22	$565	34
North Dakota	43,856	$28,469,636	30,469	$934	37	$649	27
Ohio	952,741	$981,342,401	645,734	$1,520	7	$1,030	8
Oklahoma	118,331	$73,454,649	66,676	$1,102	26	$621	30
Oregon	272,009	$178,428,037	145,065	$1,230	19	$656	26
Pennsylvania	885,131	$958,280,996	647,700	$1,480	8	$1,083	5
Puerto Rico	183,227	$126,710,913	113,506	$1,116	24	$692	22
Rhode Island	69,182	$35,523,703	39,010	$911	39	$513	41
South Carolina	220,475	$118,146,764	100,035	$1,181	20	$536	37
South Dakota	31,831	$28,018,035	29,222	$959	35	$880	12
Tennessee	495,124	$159,804,123	225,833	$708	50	$323	52
Texas	833,181	$538,252,631	386,457	$1,393	9	$646	28
Utah	114,244	$77,599,875	81,554	$952	36	$679	24
Vermont	19,366	$25,370,357	16,357	$1,551	5	$1,310	2
Virgin Islands	10,578	$5,438,272	4,979	$1,092	27	$514	40
Virginia	386,669	$257,179,742	239,909	$1,072	30	$665	25
Washington	374,935	$407,002,297	322,124	$1,263	18	$1,086	4
West Virginia	110,966	$84,232,843	51,804	$1,626	4	$759	16
Wisconsin	409,307	$440,238,715	341,752	$1,288	16	$1,076	6
Wyoming	62,010	$25,020,548	30,638	$817	45	$403	48
NATIONAL AVERAGE	19,318,691	$12,019,789,424	11,413,684	$1,053		$622	

1996 United States Child Support -- Uncollected Support

State	Support Due	Support Collected	Percent Collected	Rank	Uncollected Support
Alabama	$683,915,492	$171,952,678	25.1%	17	$511,962,814
Alaska	$560,875,677	$70,237,634	12.5%	48	$490,638,043
Arizona	$1,090,083,122	$135,303,505	12.4%	49	$954,779,617
Arkansas	$450,544,966	$92,269,415	20.5%	31	$358,275,551
California	$9,138,606,567	$926,242,370	10.1%	50	$8,212,364,197
Colorado	$1,018,096,314	$128,611,322	12.6%	47	$889,484,992
Connecticut	$842,675,301	$139,797,287	16.6%	39	$702,878,014
Delaware	$182,603,328	$38,167,874	20.9%	29	$144,435,454
District of Columbia	$229,418,447	$36,376,087	15.9%	42	$193,042,360
Florida	---	---	---	---	---
Georgia	$1,508,296,283	$289,276,334	19.2%	33	$1,219,019,949
Guam	$23,232,601	$18,545,430	79.8%	1	$4,687,171
Hawaii	$142,819,668	$56,778,860	---	---	$86,040,808
Idaho	$294,848,221	$51,900,520	17.6%	36	$242,947,701
Illinois	$1,666,909,712	$279,748,979	16.8%	38	$1,387,160,733
Indiana	$2,269,245,742	$203,515,411	9.0%	51	$2,065,730,331
Iowa	$831,395,343	$151,422,895	18.2%	34	$679,972,448
Kansas	$488,406,875	$106,136,590	21.7%	26	$382,270,285
Kentucky	$868,124,795	$154,493,977	17.8%	35	$713,630,818
Louisiana	$256,770,713	$133,102,439	51.8%	4	$123,668,274
Maine	$433,907,298	$66,080,788	15.2%	44	$367,826,510
Maryland	$1,222,437,683	$296,089,133	24.2%	20	$926,348,550
Massachusetts	$1,142,387,197	$256,171,919	22.4%	24	$886,215,278
Michigan	$4,694,409,776	$956,278,454	20.4%	32	$3,738,131,322
Minnesota	$965,000,000	$334,000,000	34.6%	11	$631,000,000
Mississippi	$590,787,277	$78,338,262	13.3%	46	$512,449,015
Missouri	$1,442,813,045	$226,644,460	15.7%	43	$1,216,168,585
Montana	$214,210,013	$34,822,534	16.3%	41	$179,387,479
Nebraska	$481,341,093	$98,964,605	20.6%	30	$382,376,488
Nevada	$434,398,645	$185,701,079	42.7%	6	$248,697,566
New Hampshire	$248,364,112	$60,079,279	24.2%	21	$188,284,833
New Jersey	$2,121,193,390	$525,235,200	24.8%	19	$1,595,958,190
New Mexico	$112,764,501	$24,434,722	21.7%	27	$88,329,779
New York	$3,486,929,885	$729,466,001	20.9%	28	$2,757,463,884
North Carolina	$1,204,344,289	$288,520,411	24.0%	23	$915,823,878
North Dakota	$84,340,633	$31,064,301	36.8%	9	$53,276,332
Ohio	$3,595,804,099	$1,015,156,760	28.2%	12	$2,580,647,339
Oklahoma	$134,270,994	$82,964,225	61.8%	3	$51,306,769
Oregon	$892,081,838	$195,783,981	21.9%	25	$696,297,857
Pennsylvania	$2,410,777,308	$1,001,720,770	41.6%	7	$1,409,056,538
Puerto Rico	$482,551,730	$130,124,549	27.0%	14	$352,427,181
Rhode Island	$217,780,227	$36,669,727	16.8%	37	$181,110,500
South Carolina	$453,366,179	$118,144,852	26.1%	16	$335,221,327
South Dakota	$138,521,958	$33,249,528	24.0%	22	$105,272,430
Tennessee	---	---	---	---	---
Texas	$3,511,601,346	$575,771,078	16.4%	40	$2,935,830,268
Utah	$153,847,103	$74,697,034	48.6%	5	$79,150,069
Vermont	$98,776,344	$27,837,922	28.2%	13	$70,938,422
Virgin Islands	$22,437,800	$5,601,951	25.0%	18	$16,835,849
Virginia	$470,204,208	$170,947,291	36.4%	10	$299,256,917
Washington	$1,054,755,023	$437,712,948	41.5%	8	$617,042,075
West Virginia	$142,622,698	$90,058,070	63.1%	2	$52,564,628
Wisconsin	$1,674,075,376	$447,473,294	26.7%	15	$1,226,602,082
Wyoming	$204,428,948	$27,141,740	13.3%	45	$177,287,208
NATIONAL AVG	$57,084,401,183	$11,846,826,475	20.8%		$45,237,574,708

1996 United States Child Support -- State Savings Due to Child Support Program

State	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Alabama	($3,052,769)	($2,528,914)	($6,318,504)	($8,672,444)	($6,250,479)
Alaska	$3,431,458	$3,796,525	$4,278,126	$4,200,899	$5,091,024
Arizona	($3,319,611)	($4,241,637)	($4,760,925)	($6,803,770)	($5,283,505)
Arkansas	$1,008,605	$530,428	($283,201)	($135,468)	($2,595,167)
California	$98,465,270	$101,406,370	$115,539,436	$110,773,725	$139,415,606
Colorado	$5,661,277	$6,064,234	$7,106,748	$7,489,950	$7,236,623
Connecticut	$11,710,747	$13,396,421	$12,522,920	$3,676,258	$6,769,728
Delaware	$901,511	$454,686	$311,642	($184,307)	$434,550
District of Columbia	$144,109	$757,052	($272,236)	($584,810)	($389,929)
Florida	$11,482,440	$14,368,279	$14,862,878	$11,796,889	$1,471,026
Georgia	$7,936,761	$12,855,877	$13,099,339	$10,800,723	$10,378,778
Guam	($449,653)	($304,723)	($375,388)	($918,527)	($591,141)
Hawaii	$1,654,586	$1,873,081	$1,618,397	$539,391	($699,978)
Idaho	$954,596	$922,331	$720,359	$665,155	($1,316,537)
Illinois	$9,766,642	$3,716,141	$3,711,680	$3,964,636	$4,304,299
Indiana	$20,358,569	$20,257,365	$22,131,185	$18,261,945	$18,474,823
Iowa	$11,765,247	$11,000,062	$12,048,430	$12,560,000	$9,599,185
Kansas	$4,040,995	$3,710,587	$3,142,153	($3,222,313)	$8,701,151
Kentucky	$1,957,763	$3,466,889	$5,104,188	$3,696,136	$1,449,319
Louisiana	($1,845,199)	($1,241,163)	($1,270,452)	($2,097,768)	($1,251,452)
Maine	$3,889,922	$5,895,211	$5,508,516	$6,358,912	$9,590,268
Maryland	$10,365,533	$12,036,773	$8,925,651	$4,819,028	$3,843,670
Massachusetts	$25,917,384	$29,957,186	$22,669,967	$25,467,840	$20,782,460
Michigan	$53,106,629	$51,977,771	$53,216,031	$49,556,695	$31,095,429
Minnesota	$12,377,137	$12,273,641	$11,879,704	$11,949,839	$9,008,870
Mississippi	($1,243,246)	($1,064,966)	($2,842,730)	($3,335,535)	($2,598,721)
Missouri	$11,772,037	$10,302,728	$10,566,319	$7,694,840	$8,597,781
Montana	$531,612	$617,836	$37,868	$37,431	($849,900)
Nebraska	($2,092,561)	($1,053,641)	($573,587)	($1,270,085)	($4,616,717)
Nevada	$607,899	($172,401)	$603,941	($901,682)	($1,773,797)
New Hampshire	$825,979	$443,315	$1,165,199	$1,157,302	$1,009,872
New Jersey	$13,551,304	$11,876,100	$13,809,309	$16,969,924	$14,092,396
New Mexico	($224,335)	$1,277,822	$456,033	($1,083,322)	($1,916,894)
New York	$41,090,533	$41,790,240	$46,035,751	$43,880,174	$45,672,898
North Carolina	$6,342,582	$6,961,757	$8,504,170	$2,853,433	$1,897,576
North Dakota	$973,159	$989,496	$888,209	$787,587	$440,762
Ohio	$444,833	$3,452,752	$6,799,917	$5,760,678	$4,422,427
Oklahoma	$1,109,857	$2,457,431	$2,411,533	$2,241,427	$3,205,210
Oregon	$4,862,653	$5,935,077	$8,029,036	$5,547,760	$6,200,238
Pennsylvania	$27,102,497	$29,232,650	$33,738,007	$30,970,859	$27,230,880
Puerto Rico	($2,007,638)	($2,188,341)	($3,073,482)	($5,161,366)	($8,164,356)
Rhode Island	$4,374,982	$5,427,001	$5,466,386	$6,142,252	$7,012,514
South Carolina	$436,841	$1,309,299	$1,049,120	$190,946	($1,158,882)
South Dakota	$671,853	$1,048,010	$967,444	$1,338,391	$1,629,097
Tennessee	$1,577,611	$5,914,940	$5,407,520	$7,519,056	$2,340,347
Texas	($6,110,639)	($13,968,817)	($12,335,430)	($6,211,617)	($1,273,816)
Utah	$980,294	$342,658	$181,105	($1,525,546)	($1,325,890)
Vermont	$1,620,969	$2,031,671	$1,174,911	$1,557,276	$1,601,843
Virgin Islands	($226,620)	($255,501)	($304,730)	($884,816)	($656,474)
Virginia	$4,323,595	$6,346,559	$5,108,666	$7,098,936	$4,889,206
Washington	$19,694,864	$24,875,343	$29,977,891	$25,869,359	$26,794,478
West Virginia	($1,046,528)	$15,733	($2,037,752)	($2,483,713)	($2,494,124)
Wisconsin	$15,553,151	$15,386,029	$15,756,620	$12,694,857	$8,279,652
Wyoming	$764,724	$278,706	$158,722	$86,260	($200,254)
NATIONAL TOTAL	$434,492,211	$462,009,959	$482,242,610	$421,499,680	$407,555,973

1996 United States Child Support -- Families Leaving Welfare With Child Support Collections

State	Welfare Caseload	Families Leaving with Child Support	Percent Closed with Child Support	Rank
Alabama	73,652	4,837	6.6%	22
Alaska	17,361	2,448	14.1%	8
Arizona	96,448	268	0.3%	45
Arkansas	36,697	3,224	8.8%	17
California	1,464,955	22,301	1.5%	40
Colorado	54,315	7,659	14.1%	7
Connecticut	73,803	2,013	2.7%	37
Delaware	15,175	0	0.0%	last
District of Columbia	37,768	0	0.0%	last
Florida	394,545	0	0.0%	last
Georgia	164,213	10,026	6.1%	25
Guam	5,688	101	1.8%	39
Hawaii	21,514	735	3.4%	35
Idaho	15,738	2,044	13.0%	10
Illinois	403,763	256	0.1%	47
Indiana	81,625	0	0.0%	last
Iowa	44,489	8,455	19.0%	4
Kansas	41,416	5,307	12.8%	11
Kentucky	86,027	3,036	3.5%	34
Louisiana	142,387	1,496	1.1%	42
Maine	30,230	5,141	17.0%	5
Maryland	133,557	6,137	4.6%	29
Massachusetts	74,754	10,385	13.9%	9
Michigan	890,090	1,362	0.2%	46
Minnesota	70,632	8,815	12.5%	12
Mississippi	73,131	4,857	6.6%	21
Missouri	111,055	9,434	8.5%	18
Montana	15,808	137	0.9%	43
Nebraska	17,296	210	1.2%	41
Nevada	24,197	1,315	5.4%	26
New Hampshire	12,492	5,096	40.8%	1
New Jersey	157,807	15,101	9.6%	14
New Mexico	35,357	0	0.0%	last
New York	401,918	13,376	3.3%	36
North Carolina	244,599	22,683	9.3%	15
North Dakota	7,490	1,956	26.1%	3
Ohio	341,478	18,330	5.4%	27
Oklahoma	38,399	4,183	10.9%	13
Oregon	63,093	5,573	8.8%	16
Pennsylvania	280,436	19,759	7.0%	20
Puerto Rico	63,171	0	0.0%	last
Rhode Island	31,029	1,545	5.0%	28
South Carolina	64,750	0	0.0%	last
South Dakota	5,553	1,700	30.6%	2
Tennessee	133,121	5,940	4.5%	30
Texas	303,475	8,273	2.7%	38
Utah	38,937	1,673	4.3%	32
Vermont	7,797	302	3.9%	33
Virgin Islands	3,977	12	0.3%	44
Virginia	107,210	4,747	4.4%	31
Washington	107,654	16,384	15.2%	6
West Virginia	35,821	2,298	6.4%	24
Wisconsin	172,775	13,800	8.0%	19
Wyoming	8,961	584	6.5%	23
NATIONAL TOTAL	7,379,629	285,314	3.9%	

1996-97 California Child Support -- Uncollected Support

County	Support Collected	Support Owed	Percent Collected	Rank	Uncollected Support
Alameda	$67,331,805	$412,913,500	16.3%	25	$345,581,695
Alpine	$124,098	$1,468,708	8.4%	54	$1,344,610
Amador	$2,022,740	$12,495,645	16.2%	28	$10,472,905
Butte	$6,779,268	$88,913,558	7.6%	56	$82,134,290
Calaveras	$2,174,129	$16,319,735	13.3%	42	$14,145,606
Colusa	$967,830	$4,599,055	21.0%	18	$3,631,225
Contra Costa	$32,348,480	$271,241,769	11.9%	45	$238,893,289
Del Norte	$21,212,914	$20,168,657	105.2%	2	($1,044,257)
El Dorado	$7,506,743	$84,835,986	8.8%	53	$77,329,243
Fresno	$54,606,606	$510,630,300	10.7%	50	$456,023,694
Glenn	$1,627,942	$11,229,330	14.5%	35	$9,601,388
Humboldt	$9,160,290	$48,628,001	18.8%	20	$39,467,711
Imperial	$4,160,364	$61,164,320	6.8%	57	$57,003,956
Inyo	$5,104,456	$9,350,504	54.6%	8	$4,246,048
Kern	$38,654,149	$358,172,794	10.8%	49	$319,518,645
Kings	$6,637,868	$54,527,685	12.2%	44	$47,889,817
Lake	$33,889,339	$34,454,221	98.4%	3	$564,882
Lassen	$1,433,247	$10,154,289	14.1%	39	$8,721,042
Los Angeles	$113,410,112	$1,913,349,805	5.9%	58	$1,799,939,693
Madera	$6,657,071	$38,047,131	17.5%	22	$31,390,060
Marin	$7,739,918	$26,075,362	29.7%	11	$18,335,444
Mariposa	$23,880,964	$5,343,366	446.9%	1	($18,537,598)
Mendocino	$14,077,353	$24,895,496	56.5%	6	$10,818,143
Merced	$17,856,641	$83,524,881	21.4%	16	$65,668,240
Modoc	$383,641	$2,827,231	13.6%	41	$2,443,590
Mono	$470,451	$2,174,960	21.6%	14	$1,704,509
Monterey	$18,922,823	$101,092,683	18.7%	21	$82,169,860
Napa	$6,401,639	$41,897,389	15.3%	30	$35,495,750
Nevada	$4,460,436	$38,277,148	11.7%	47	$33,816,712
Orange	$85,253,545	$589,123,838	14.5%	36	$503,870,293
Placer	$19,226,975	$58,954,068	32.6%	10	$39,727,093
Plumas	$5,627,307	$8,219,930	68.5%	4	$2,592,623
Riverside	$51,766,365	$544,540,495	9.5%	52	$492,774,130
Sacramento	$55,766,991	$342,880,965	16.3%	27	$287,113,974
San Benito	$2,233,055	$20,644,261	10.8%	48	$18,411,206
San Bernardino	$61,602,670	$283,666,903	21.7%	13	$222,064,233
San Diego	$80,237,969	$500,863,075	16.0%	29	$420,625,106
San Francisco	$13,896,091	$170,122,953	8.2%	55	$156,226,862
San Joaquin	$32,114,917	$220,742,429	14.5%	34	$188,627,512
San Luis Obispo	$13,967,755	$64,652,898	21.6%	15	$50,685,143
San Mateo	$19,739,875	$83,472,331	23.6%	12	$63,732,456
Santa Barbara	$19,100,312	$115,600,072	16.5%	23	$96,499,760
Santa Clara	$50,258,155	$518,404,225	9.7%	51	$468,146,070
Santa Cruz	$10,173,818	$61,704,643	16.5%	24	$51,530,825
Shasta	$13,164,272	$94,189,081	14.0%	40	$81,024,809
Sierra	$627,168	$928,897	67.5%	5	$301,729
Siskiyou	$16,501,982	$29,297,699	56.3%	7	$12,795,717
Solano	$16,466,840	$101,014,239	16.3%	26	$84,547,399
Sonoma	$18,914,951	$133,588,738	14.2%	37	$114,673,787
Stanislaus	$31,559,492	$156,968,914	20.1%	19	$125,409,422
Sutter	$4,959,021	$23,306,831	21.3%	17	$18,347,810
Tehama	$3,915,744	$30,070,840	13.0%	43	$26,155,096
Trinity	$2,298,656	$6,685,874	34.4%	9	$4,387,218
Tulare	$21,752,259	$148,584,765	14.6%	32	$126,832,506
Tuolumne	$3,107,521	$20,638,512	15.1%	31	$17,530,991
Ventura	$28,117,618	$199,085,407	14.1%	38	$170,967,789
Yolo	$8,449,698	$57,999,606	14.6%	33	$49,549,908
Yuba	$3,588,386	$30,569,122	11.7%	46	$26,980,736
TOTAL	$1,204,392,725	$8,905,295,121	13.5%		$7,700,902,396

1996-97 California Child Support -- Families Leaving Welfare with Child Support Collections

County	Welfare Cases	Families Leaving Welfare With Child Support	Percent Closed With Child Support	Rank
Alameda	28,650	222	0.8%	43
Alpine *	36	3	8.3%	18
Amador *	374	0	0.0%	last
Butte	5,275	186	3.5%	30
Calaveras	736	12	1.6%	37
Colusa *	299	76	25.4%	6
Contra Costa	13,464	2,152	16.0%	10
Del Norte *	910	102	11.2%	14
El Dorado	1,617	375	23.2%	7
Fresno	24,522	0	0.0%	last
Glenn *	575	74	12.9%	12
Humboldt	3,091	14	0.5%	44
Imperial	4,504	336	7.5%	20
Inyo *	370	5	1.4%	40
Kern	19,467	0	0.0%	last
Kings	3,064	0	0.0%	last
Lake *	2,020	72	3.6%	29
Lassen *	709	47	6.7%	22
Los Angeles	245,249	0	0.0%	last
Madera	2,953	112	3.8%	28
Marin	1,306	16	1.2%	41
Mariposa *	315	31	9.8%	16
Mendocino *	2,390	3	0.1%	45
Merced	7,076	0	0.0%	last
Modoc *	278	0	0.0%	last
Mono *	89	0	0.0%	last
Monterey	6,067	0	0.0%	last
Napa *	1,305	83	6.4%	23
Nevada	950	15	1.6%	38
Orange	26,062	896	3.4%	31
Placer *	2,559	69	2.7%	34
Plumas *	384	253	65.9%	2
Riverside	30,668	3,680	12.0%	13
Sacramento	35,165	651	1.9%	36
San Benito *	726	20	2.8%	33
San Bernardino	49,251	0	0.0%	last
San Diego	49,592	2,212	4.5%	26
San Francisco *	9,680	695	7.2%	21
San Joaquin	16,871	255	1.5%	39
San Luis Obispo *	2,914	476	16.3%	9
San Mateo	4,585	100	2.2%	35
Santa Barbara	4,956	2,877	58.1%	3
Santa Clara	20,367	6,113	30.0%	5
Santa Cruz	2,852	121	4.2%	27
Shasta *	4,867	950	19.5%	8
Sierra *	39	0	0.0%	last
Siskiyou *	1,332	1,685	126.5%	1
Solano	7,579	573	7.6%	19
Sonoma	5,274	323	6.1%	24
Stanislaus	12,280	0	0.0%	last
Sutter	1,535	479	31.2%	4
Tehama	1,463	0	0.0%	last
Trinity *	347	54	15.6%	11
Tulare	11,745	1,139	9.7%	17
Tuolumne	996	52	5.2%	25
Ventura *	8,413	101	1.2%	42
Yolo	3,037	317	10.4%	15
Yuba	2,308	78	3.4%	32
Total	695,508	28,105	4.0%	

*Data for SACSS counties from 1995-96.

1996-97 California Child Support -- Families Closed Out of Child Support Program

County	Cases Closed	Total Cases	Percent Cases Closed	Rank
Alameda	12,788	59,574	17.7%	29
Alpine*	14	142	9.0%	2
Amador*	467	2,137	17.9%	30
Butte	2,599	21,313	10.9%	6
Calaveras	772	3,406	18.5%	32
Colusa*	196	1,417	12.2%	9
Contra Costa	16,721	64,526	20.6%	39
Del Norte*	847	4,319	16.4%	24
El Dorado	2,451	10,636	18.7%	36
Fresno	17,008	83,179	17.0%	27
Glenn*	464	2,457	15.9%	22
Humboldt	1,924	8,367	18.7%	34
Imperial	2,376	10,333	18.7%	33
Inyo*	357	1,913	15.7%	21
Kern	36,216	54,018	40.1%	56
Kings	3,088	11,680	20.9%	40
Lake*	2,526	6,658	27.5%	51
Lassen*	745	2,069	26.5%	50
Los Angeles	244,259	496,198	33.0%	54
Madera	1,620	8,457	16.1%	23
Marin	1,052	4,433	19.2%	37
Mariposa*	160	1,292	11.0%	7
Mendocino*	2,253	6,850	24.8%	44
Merced	3,481	17,047	17.0%	26
Modoc*	205	1,351	13.2%	11
Mono*	60	566	9.6%	4
Monterey	4,258	25,609	14.3%	15
Napa*	1,078	6,522	14.2%	14
Nevada	890	7,667	10.4%	5
Orange	24,876	145,682	14.6%	17
Placer*	2,517	13,749	15.5%	20
Plumas*	290	1,411	17.0%	28
Riverside	43,610	131,904	24.8%	46
Sacramento	74,906	74,527	50.1%	58
San Benito*	271	4,451	5.7%	1
San Bernardino	46,932	135,315	25.8%	49
San Diego	27,952	184,147	13.2%	12
San Francisco*	7,178	36,119	16.6%	25
San Joaquin	14,641	44,348	24.8%	45
San Luis Obispo*	3,235	8,197	28.3%	52
San Mateo	4,035	25,743	13.6%	13
Santa Barbara	4,400	25,736	14.6%	18
Santa Clara	19,330	79,864	19.5%	38
Santa Cruz	6,590	8,269	44.4%	57
Shasta*	8,802	20,672	29.9%	53
Sierra*	90	177	33.7%	55
Siskiyou*	739	5,793	11.3%	8
Solano	6,465	28,070	18.7%	35
Sonoma	6,121	22,770	21.2%	41
Stanislaus	6,284	37,736	14.3%	16
Sutter	2,559	7,532	25.4%	48
Tehama	1,891	6,122	23.6%	43
Trinity*	658	1,982	24.9%	47
Tulare	8,355	47,380	15.0%	19
Tuolumne	1,581	5,380	22.7%	42
Ventura*	8,168	58,198	12.3%	10
Yolo	3,018	13,429	18.3%	31
Yuba	1,408	13,581	9.4%	3
TOTALS/AVG	697,777	2,112,420	24.8%	

*Data for SACSS Counties from 1995-96

1994-97 California Child Support -- Bureaucratic Incentives vs. Child Support Collections

County	1994-95 Incentives	1995-96 Incentives	1996-97 Incentives	Percent Change	1994-95 Collections	1995-96 Collections	1996-97 Collections	Percent Change	Incentive %/ Collection %	Rank
Alameda	$6,367,579	$7,740,260	$11,168,539	75.4%	$52,997,481	$59,288,818	$65,024,068	22.7%	3.3	32
Alpine	$12,639	$22,780	$58,188	360.4%	$104,833	$135,591	$93,557	-10.8%	*	58
Amador	$207,932	$246,685	$329,554	58.5%	$1,706,594	$1,915,541	$1,955,080	14.6%	4.0	41
Butte	$707,874	$976,974	$1,788,997	152.7%	$6,552,767	$8,684,337	$10,387,275	58.5%	2.6	13
Calaveras	$160,121	$230,988	$356,873	122.9%	$1,413,385	$1,622,614	$1,942,627	37.4%	3.3	31
Colusa	$97,812	$110,262	$182,965	87.1%	$814,317	$873,782	$936,450	15.0%	5.8	47
Contra Costa	$2,952,172	$3,812,869	$5,774,487	95.6%	$27,941,251	$30,516,920	$36,300,498	29.9%	3.2	29
Del Norte	$290,598	$356,933	$431,656	48.5%	$2,328,610	$2,514,312	$2,699,944	15.9%	3.0	22
El Dorado	$711,684	$1,063,479	$1,668,672	134.5%	$6,922,030	$8,544,165	$9,552,887	38.0%	3.5	34
Fresno	$5,425,283	$7,399,237	$10,553,782	94.5%	$46,834,424	$53,369,937	$58,080,868	24.0%	3.9	40
Glenn	$118,601	$171,179	$239,977	102.3%	$1,323,446	$1,352,296	$1,468,748	11.0%	9.3	55
Humboldt	$950,251	$1,046,777	$1,534,029	61.4%	$9,012,155	$9,642,087	$11,252,495	24.9%	2.5	9
Imperial	$788,649	$1,139,327	$2,293,266	190.8%	$6,107,178	$7,818,572	$11,892,575	94.7%	2.0	5
Inyo	$174,266	$224,291	$234,957	34.8%	$1,517,991	$1,651,938	$1,691,914	11.5%	3.0	21
Kern	$3,112,986	$4,909,749	$6,853,241	120.2%	$28,865,885	$34,594,035	$40,042,625	38.7%	3.1	25
Kings	$628,446	$887,018	$1,550,206	146.7%	$6,362,270	$7,940,273	$8,773,437	37.9%	3.9	39
Lake	$286,470	$395,968	$674,979	135.6%	$2,880,833	$3,356,933	$4,054,048	40.7%	3.3	33
Lassen	$150,720	$240,455	$259,458	72.1%	$1,403,203	$1,704,819	$1,767,985	26.0%	2.8	15
Los Angeles	$9,764,095	$21,632,661	$32,223,241	230.0%	$166,980,700	$193,195,300	$195,269,257	16.9%	13.6	57
Madera	$657,642	$857,946	$1,158,325	76.1%	$5,562,746	$6,245,526	$7,073,982	27.2%	2.8	16
Marin	$595,709	$723,467	$1,158,611	94.5%	$5,825,607	$6,855,678	$7,552,488	29.6%	3.2	27
Mariposa	$106,317	$147,416	$210,478	98.0%	$915,304	$1,077,295	$1,203,555	31.5%	3.1	26
Mendocino	$424,474	$587,949	$893,144	110.4%	$4,175,700	$5,151,102	$5,005,949	19.9%	5.6	46
Merced	$1,221,751	$2,135,681	$3,376,922	176.4%	$12,450,781	$15,686,973	$18,428,492	48.0%	3.7	36
Modoc	$45,535	$51,259	$71,758	57.6%	$354,139	$368,534	$473,287	33.6%	1.7	2
Mono	$36,334	$44,200	$62,412	71.8%	$304,668	$358,206	$445,103	46.1%	1.6	1
Monterey	$762,761	$2,051,063	$3,293,271	331.8%	$12,593,808	$16,120,730	$19,087,883	51.6%	6.4	51
Napa	$513,452	$694,524	$1,055,517	105.6%	$4,895,489	$5,822,310	$6,573,490	34.3%	3.1	24
Nevada	$444,189	$529,051	$694,645	56.4%	$3,631,568	$3,930,836	$4,602,359	26.7%	2.1	6
Orange	$5,457,166	$7,146,637	$11,501,132	110.8%	$53,083,701	$65,520,006	$82,675,105	55.7%	2.0	4
Placer	$823,567	$1,111,722	$1,639,937	99.1%	$6,964,339	$8,061,109	$9,659,003	38.7%	2.6	12
Plumas	$136,043	$187,994	$246,111	80.9%	$1,118,208	$1,370,375	$1,412,165	26.3%	3.1	23
Riverside	$4,005,541	$5,862,000	$8,632,218	115.5%	$41,837,819	$47,645,964	$53,604,768	28.1%	4.1	42
Sacramento	$5,035,446	$7,117,365	$10,280,468	104.2%	$41,390,466	$51,189,290	$57,331,738	38.5%	2.7	14
San Benito	$101,751	$206,154	$404,935	298.0%	$1,655,197	$1,989,816	$2,319,538	40.1%	7.4	53
San Bernardino	$4,485,502	$5,827,193	$8,154,919	81.8%	$41,218,356	$54,700,496	$58,798,731	42.7%	1.9	3
San Diego	$2,866,908	$7,286,200	$14,592,150	405.5%	$41,708,156	$51,191,614	$78,529,940	88.3%	4.6	44
San Francisco	$2,616,647	$3,370,697	$4,399,401	68.1%	$22,570,048	$24,155,568	$25,106,003	11.2%	6.1	49
San Joaquin	$2,514,931	$3,498,441	$5,636,882	124.1%	$23,148,697	$27,582,701	$32,149,966	38.9%	3.2	28
San Luis Obisp	$957,915	$1,561,891	$1,911,321	99.5%	$8,267,778	$9,696,827	$10,994,045	33.0%	3.0	20
San Mateo	$1,631,403	$2,288,673	$3,050,820	87.0%	$15,403,325	$18,786,446	$21,265,045	38.1%	2.3	7
Santa Barbara	$1,198,445	$2,176,962	$3,187,702	166.0%	$14,730,317	$16,291,018	$18,636,310	26.5%	6.3	50
Santa Clara	$5,102,979	$7,040,629	$10,649,473	108.7%	$41,989,704	$54,076,379	$60,826,446	44.9%	2.4	8
Santa Cruz	$754,802	$904,830	$1,412,644	87.2%	$7,378,756	$8,322,263	$9,958,400	35.0%	2.5	10
Shasta	$998,023	$1,579,579	$1,914,959	91.9%	$10,505,773	$12,313,367	$13,038,729	24.1%	3.8	38
Sierra	$24,769	$29,180	$49,440	99.6%	$205,330	$211,061	$239,318	16.6%	6.0	48
Siskiyou	$403,089	$525,241	$693,266	72.0%	$3,708,468	$3,841,078	$4,028,693	8.6%	8.3	54
Solano	$1,237,250	$1,995,188	$3,282,091	165.3%	$11,843,119	$15,252,711	$18,528,498	56.4%	2.9	18
Sonoma	$1,726,083	$2,346,523	$3,793,669	119.8%	$15,218,574	$18,605,593	$22,465,406	47.6%	2.5	11
Stanislaus	$2,622,715	$3,537,901	$5,438,038	107.3%	$23,109,852	$26,732,738	$30,821,762	33.4%	3.2	30
Sutter	$485,055	$612,418	$718,760	48.2%	$4,138,358	$4,473,012	$4,809,728	16.2%	3.0	19
Tehama	$377,193	$498,784	$617,206	63.6%	$3,121,810	$3,717,851	$3,496,358	12.0%	5.3	45
Trinity	$63,573	$86,611	$124,408	95.7%	$718,643	$845,890	$904,158	25.8%	3.7	37
Tulare	$1,775,202	$3,400,217	$4,529,720	155.2%	$17,024,619	$24,077,152	$26,157,409	53.6%	2.9	17
Tuolumne	$146,232	$201,320	$478,306	227.1%	$2,326,168	$2,601,581	$3,114,787	33.9%	6.7	52
Ventura	$3,579,509	$4,285,299	$6,274,818	75.3%	$29,688,688	$34,510,268	$35,996,791	21.2%	3.5	35
Yolo	$818,046	$1,019,283	$1,534,712	87.6%	$7,702,863	$8,340,019	$8,398,929	9.0%	9.7	56
Yuba	$155,750	$183,472	$330,331	112.1%	$2,595,563	$3,047,045	$3,238,114	24.8%	4.5	43
TOTAL	$89,837,877	$136,318,852	$205,631,987	128.9%	$917,151,858	$1,089,488,698	$1,232,138,809	34.3%	3.8	

*While incentives for Alpine County increased by over 360%, collections actually decreased by 11%

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